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February Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2015

Attending were Mark Deshon (chair), Heather Dunigan (WILMAPCO), James Wilson (Bike Delaware), Tom Coleman (City of Newark Public Works and Water Resources), Anthony Aglio (DelDOT Bike Coordinator), Karl Hassler (resident), Bob Bennett (resident), Jeff Riegner (resident), Ban Phommachanh (UD Parking), Brian Bahnson (resident), Paul Moser (UD student), Kirsten Jones (UD student), and Jillian Farley (UD alumna).

Christine Schultz (resident), Linda Smith (UD HealthyU Employee Wellness), and Tom Price (Newark Bike Project) sent regrets.

- *General discussion of current status of Delaware Avenue Cycle Track*

Mark Deshon opened the topic by saying that he thought we needed everyone to weigh in on where we are right now with the proposed cycle track effort.

Funding acronyms used in this discussion:

UPWP = Unified Planning Work Program

CTF = Community Transportation Funds

TAP = Transportation Alternatives Program

CMAQ = Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement

Heather Dunigan said that Mike Fortner had talked with her about it. The next logical step is a preliminary engineering study and project development (PD). Mike and Tom Coleman have been working on an application for UPWP funding. Heather said that engineering, including PD, is not eligible for UPWP funding.

A question was asked about what could be included in the application that UPWP would cover, and Jeff Riegner suggested asking the question, "What can be done under this funding?"

The video shot by Kirsten Jones is illustrative of the environment but is not sufficient for crafting a particular solution. Choosing a "preferred option" requires a more detailed engineering analysis, Heather said. This prompted James Wilson to ask, "When do engineers ask, 'What are we supposed to do?'" Jeff answered that it's in

“scoping” and PD. DelDOT is certainly capable of overseeing management of such a project.

With regard to the funding picture, Anthony Aglio stated that DelDOT’s Planning department could handle about 30% of the cost. PD or concept design will flesh out all big issues, he said. However, if UPWP funding is not a realistic goal, the City of Newark can pony up some of the money, Tom said. Apparently, DelDOT Engineering’s Mark Tudor was counting on UPWP money. Heather suggested that the UPWP application include JMT’s scope of work because public outreach money may be eligible for funding. Initial review of funding applications will take place at the next WILMAPCO Council meeting on March 12.

Brian Bahnson then made the observation that right now it seems “nobody is in charge” and that there’s a general lack of transparency about the process of seeking funding for such a project. A few of those in attendance tried to reassure him by noting that the right people from DelDOT, the City of Newark, and WILMAPCO are talking with one another.

James concluded that, given the funding picture, CTF are back in play. “What about half CTF and half internal DelDOT funds?” James asked. “Maybe we could cobble something together from [several] sources.” Jeff understands that Mark Tudor would handle things related to PD but asked, “Would there be any flexibility within DelDOT’s Planning department [as opposed to Engineering]?” Anthony explained that it’s possible that TAP funds might be applicable. He went on to say that the City would be asking DelDOT for this type of funding understanding it would have to match with 20% of its own funding. Heather added that federal CMAQ funds might also be available; these would be administered through DelDOT, but the City may apply to through the WILMAPCO Transportation Improvement Program.

James said he will speak with Mark Tudor and concluded that both DelDOT’s Mark Tudor and Mark Luszcz need to get together with city planner Mike Fortner regarding a viable funding strategy for moving into the PD phase of a cycle track project.

- *NBC partnering with Bike Delaware to field booth for upcoming InsideLine Bike Expo, organized by Trail Spinners - <http://insidelinebikeexpo.com>*

Mark mentioned that James had approached him (on behalf of Bike Delaware) to ask if our committee would be interested in partnering with Bike Delaware to host a booth at the Trail Spinners’ InsideLine Bike Expo, which will take place on Saturday, March 7, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Delaware Sportsplex, 326 Ruthar Drive in Newark. Mark had sent out an email asking for those interested to volunteer time. There are six from the committee who each agreed to cover a respective two-hour time slot:

- Tom Coleman and Kirsten Jones (10 a.m.–noon)
- Mark Deshon (noon–2 p.m.)
- Paul Moser (1–3 p.m.)

- Karl Hassler (2–4 p.m.)
- Jillian Farley (4–6 p.m.)

James said that he's trying to secure a functioning bike traffic signal and plans to loop Kirsten Jones's video but needs equipment. Paul Moser said he'd help out with a flat screen. Heather said she thinks Mike Fortner has both the committee banner and the map boards that were used during Newark Community Day. Mark will check with and obtain those materials from Mike.

- *Planning for spring semester safety checkpoints at UD*

Discussion zeroed in on the weeks right after spring break (March 27–April 5). Ban Phommachanh suggested that the patio in front of Perkins Student Center (on Academy Street) would be an ideal location alternative to The Green. Anthony mentioned how successful the 4–7 p.m. time slot had been in the fall, so Mark suggested that each session be 4–7 this spring. The dates chosen were Tuesday, April 7, at The Green on Delaware Avenue, and Monday, April 13, at the patio area in front of Perkins Student Center.

- *Upcoming Bike Month events update*

- *Bike to Work Day*

No report other than the date (Friday, May 15)

- *Mayor's Ride*

In January, Jeff, Joe Spadafino, and Mark participated in an initial organizational meeting with Mayor Sierer and a group of others. Jeff said that the date chosen is Saturday morning, May 16; Mark said he was pretty sure 10:30 a.m. would be the ride start time. Mark went on to explain that a five-mile course was chosen among three potential courses of varying length. More than half of the distance, he said, would be either on the Hall or Pomeroy trails. The ride will start on South Main Street at Veterans Drive (the entrance to the City Municipal Building and the Rittenhouse building).

Mark said that the Mayor has received interest in sponsorship from the owner of the Rittenhouse building. Heather mentioned that Joe Spadafino is interested in having a bike rodeo, among other attractions that day. Anthony suggested that DelDOT's Sarah Coakley be contacted in that regard. Mark mentioned that the next meeting would be held next week. Anthony said helmets run about \$7.95 each.

- *Bike Summit –*

James announced that the Walkable/Bikeable Delaware Summit is scheduled for Thursday, May 7 in Dover on the Legislative Mall. He is hoping that the Newark cycle track project will be a big part of it and that both Mark Tudor and Mark Luszcz will be there. Kirsten will edit her video specifically for that event. Mark

added that it's a great event with good speakers and hopes that a few from the committee will be able to spend the day there.

- *Discussion on data gathering related to progress on LAB Bicycle Friendly Community feedback*

The following data were mentioned:

- Heather suggested that she and Tom Coleman can keep track of various lane markings.
- DART now has sensors that track bike-rack use on its buses.
- Brian said that trail usage data is critical. There is now tracking on both the Hall and Pomeroy trails.
- Anthony said that DelDOT is now using EcoCounters.
- Brian said that we should probably issue a new survey on the UD campus that includes students as well as employees.

Karl suggested someone pull together a spreadsheet with League of American Bicyclists' recommendations that we can add to as we make progress in those areas. He also pointed out that this would help us keep focused on these items in the coming years, through continual addition and review. Paul Moser volunteered to work with Karl to come up with an online mechanism for this.

- *Update on UD BikeShare project*

Ban said that Pepsi and Aramark are now out as potential sponsors. He will be contacting Highmark Delaware next, but he said he has to work off an approved list of potential sponsors given to him by the UD public affairs office. The project will consist of 120 bicycles and 10 stations from Gotcha Bike. The idea is that one can borrow a bike free as long as he/she brings it back to the same location within 24 hours.

On another UD Parking-related matter, Ban reported that UD has donated 7 bikes to the UD Blue Hen cycling group, which will be participating in a Washington, D.C., to Gettysburg, Pa., ride on April 24–26 in honor of war veterans. Both able-bodied and disabled riders will participate together in this event.

Ban also mentioned that UD is putting up new bike racks near Spencer Laboratory and looking to repurpose other racks that are not seeing much use.

- *Discussion on possibility of a freestanding NBC website*

After some discussion of the pros and cons, the consensus was that we should keep things as they are for the time being but begin to take greater advantage of Facebook to post timely items and announcements relating directly to our committee's activities.

- *Administrative transfer of NBC Facebook account*

As Angela Connolly, who created the committee's Facebook page is no longer on the committee, Mark volunteered to talk with her about ceding her administrative ownership over to him, as suggested by the members at this meeting.

- *Funding possibilities for printing of Newark bike maps*

Mark reminded the committee that Tom Price of the Newark Bike Project has asked several months ago about the possibility of having Newark Bike Maps on hand. Having already received tacit permission from DelDOT through Anthony to print larger quantities, Mark raised the issue of how to pay for these. Anthony then offered that DelDOT would look into and probably pay for printing 1,000 of the 11-in.x17-in., double-sided, full-color maps.

- *Old or new business*

- *Report from the Newark Bike Project*

Tom Price reported by email that Open Shops have been moved to Monday and Thursday evenings to better space out the days that people can bring in bikes for repair. Same times, 5-6 p.m. for sales and 6-9 p.m. for walk-in repairs. NBP Board member Kim Caruso attended the first Mayor's Ride planning meeting. NBP looks forward to being a part of this event.

- *National Bike Summit*

James reported that the National Bike Summit, organized by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) is coming up on March 11–12 in Washington, D.C. The second of the two-day event is "lobby day"; our own state Sen. Dave Sokola will lead the Delaware delegation.

- *Bike Delaware in the running for national honor*

Bike Delaware—an NBC partner and Delaware's premier bicycle advocacy organization—is among nine *Bicycling Magazine* nominees for 2015 Alliance Advocacy Award as top national advocacy group. James thinks they may be in the top three. Go online and vote for Bike Delaware (<http://www.bicycling.com/news/advocacy/vote-bicycling-people-s-choice-advocacy-award>)!

- *Bicycle Friendly Businesses*

The City of Newark has applied to the LAB as a Bicycle Friendly Business, Tom said. Mark said he thought that we should be able to get a few others businesses to apply as well and that he'll talk to Ricky Nietubicz about this.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 19, at 4 p.m. at WILMAPCO.